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HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

Notable Special Price Sale of WREXHAM SEEDLINGS

For Spring of 1927 Only--RARE OPPORTUNITY

Having a few thousand splendid seedlings from the choicest WREXHAM specimens at HOODACRES, that did not reach blooming stage in 1926, although they are fine, vigorous plants from Spring planting, they are now offered at a fraction of their real value to introduce this new strain from Watkin Samuel's extensive plantings in Wales. These are the varieties that have been called "Hollyhock Delphiniums," on account of their towering broad spikes of large flowers, in many shades of blue, mauve and purple, and some with contrasting centers.

Some of these will be fine enough to compete with the expensive show specimens and worth many times the cost. The price is low enough to make large test plantings desirable.

These choice plants will be sent out in two sizes: 50c and \$1.00 each; \$5.00 and \$10.00 per dozen; \$40.00 and \$75.00 per 100.

Orders will be filled in sequence received up to the limit of the stock in hand. Orders coming too late must be declined.



Cut Spikes of One-Year Seedlings at Hoodacres

HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

WHAT ARE DELPHINIUMS?

It is just a wilding glorified beyond recognition by the hand of the hybridizer. The Larkspur is a Delphinium, but the word is limited to the English language, while the Latin "Delphinium," meaning dolphin-flower, passes current in all languages. Lark-spur refers to the little horn projecting back from the sepals of each flower.

The Delphinium leaf is one of the most ornate and has classic standing, while the flower even in its native state strikes the wonderful blue note. Blue in flowers is rare, and accordingly, prized. It came forth from nature's workshop last of all. The hybridizers saw its great possibilities rather late in history, but have worked speedily and lo! the transformation of a few decades. At first, the blossom was five-eighths of an inch in size; now, it goes to three inches, and sometimes more. Where the spike of flowers might be a foot long, it now may run to three feet and beyond, with the height sometimes eight feet.

The forbears of this modern, and perhaps greatest flower, came from different parts of the globe—Siberia, Europe, and our own America.

When the writer began experimenting with the Delphinium, a quarter of a century ago, he found that Kelway & Son, England, and V. Lemoine & Son, France, had done much good work and brought forth numerous hybrids with startling improvement over the species.

Later, Blackmore & Langdon, the Tuberous Begonia specialists of England, branched into Delphiniums, besides numerous others in that country, on a lesser scale. More recently, Mr. Watkin Samuel, a private gardener of Wrexham, Wales, was continuing his Delphinium hobby, until he could compete successfully with the established growers, having bred a different shaped spike on a very sturdy plant.

The older strains still reign in the matter of beautiful color tones. In America, also, Mr. Newell F. Vanderbilt, California, has, for a number

of years, worked untiringly along strictly scientific lines, using the species themselves, and has produced some remarkable things, particularly those with the wand-like spikes.

At Hoodacres, the writer undertook to utilize the cream of Europe's achievements and incorporate their most salient points into a strain that should stand superior to any other for stamina in the plant itself, coupled with the greatest range of color and color combinations. Only the discriminating visitor going through the plantings in blooming season can realize how extensive these variations are. They run from the most delicate azure through many tones of dazzling blue on to almost blue-black. They take up the red element that lurks in the mauves and purples and run the gamut of these from tender pinky mauve forward into the reddest of purples. Red itself will come some day. In addition, comes the vast number of combinations produced by the coloring and varying size of the floret centers. It takes in the single, semi-double and double forms.

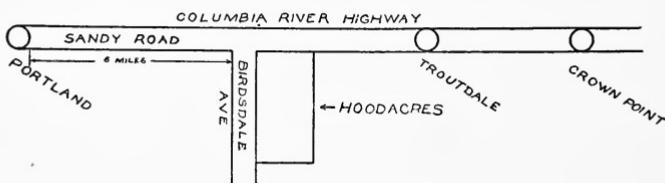
And now Hoodacres has achieved that much sought-for thing in Delphiniums—the white blosseming ones, with the magnificence of leafage, size and purity, that have only heretofore been dreamed of. But that is not all, for in the past season came forth the really *fragrant* Delphinium—a plant with all the other characteristics of a choice variety. It has a fine fragrance, distinct from other flowers. This will form a new chapter in the history of Delphiniums.

CHAS. F. BARBER

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Catalog on request



Location on Columbia River Highway, near Portland